

14.26 hrs.

## DISCUSSION RE FLOOD SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY—Contd.

**Mr. Speaker:** The House will continue further discussion on the flood situation in the country. The hon. Minister may continue his speech.

**The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Dr. K. L. Rao):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank all hon. Members of this House who have participated in the discussion on the flood situation in the country, and given very valuable suggestions. I will briefly deal with the various points that they have raised; if I do not discuss any of the points today, I shall be supplying them with the information in the form of a note later on.

14.27 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

One question that has dominated the discussion, which has been asked by most of the Members is, why is it that these floods are occurring every year and why is it that in spite of 17 years of independence flood control has not been done. I shall first address myself to answering these questions.

Now, India is one of those few countries of the world which is blessed with plentiful supplies of rainfall. The average rainfall of India is about 44.5 inches. That means the entire country of 806 million acres will be covered, if the rainfall would have been spread throughout the country, with nearly three feet depth of water. If total water is calculated, it comes to something like 300 million acre feet which is nearly four hundred times what is contained in the single Bhakra Dam. Such a large amount of water is flowing through our very precious and numerous rivers. Again, I should mention that of this rainfall only 45 per cent flows through our rivers. Even so, it is a very large amount. These rivers, large and very numerous, spread all over the country, are subject to variations of rainfall and

concentration. These are two peculiar factors that we have got to remember when we are discussing this subject of floods in this country. Added to that the fact that there has been considerable development in this country by the formation of roads, by the formation of railways and so on, which naturally prevent the free flow of the water, go to make up the larger intensity of flow in the rivers with the result that floods are inevitable. In a large country like ours which has got a plentiful supply of water, it is inevitable.

The other remark that Shri Yashpal Singh made was this. He said that these floods must be predictable. He also said that in Japan earthquakes are predicted one hour before they occur. This, I submit, is not correct. Any amount of research is being done in Japan, it is true, in order to predict earthquakes one hour before they occur. But so far they have not succeeded. It remains only a research problem. The forecasting of floods is much more reliable and it can be done to a greater degree of accuracy than it is possible for earthquakes, by the recent developments in USA, namely, the sending of satellites which are set in motion and which are going round the world from where television pictures are received and information is conveyed. We have got one such receiving station in Bombay set up this year. Through these findings it will be possible to predict to a certain degree the amount of rainfall that may occur. In this regard, we are planning in the Fourth Plan to set up 10 radar stations in the East Coast and the West Coast to predict well in advance the presence of the rainfall, the depressions, their movement and the possible rains that may occur in different places.

What I want to submit is this. All these advances are in the form of research problems. More than all that, all these could only give an idea as to what will be the type of rain-

fall that will occur over a region. For example, the meteorologist can say rain will occur in the whole of East Punjab or in the South East or South West coast. They cannot pinpoint the locality. It is very difficult, if not impossible. For example, in Andhra Pradesh during the last three or four days many tragic things have happened. There the meteorologists have indicated that there was a depression in the Bay of Bengal and there was going to be rainfall for the next two days. They predicted it on the 26th September and they did say there is going to be rain but they were not able to say where it is going to concentrate itself. What actually happened was due to intensive rainfall in a concentrated way in a small portion of Guntur, Krishna, Vizag and Mehboobanagar and great amount of damage has been done.

I am referring to this specially because the Speaker has asked me to say a few words on this in connection with a call attention notice given by a large number of hon. Members, including Shri P. Venkatasubbaiah. I have received telegrams on this subject from the Chief Minister of Andhra. I do not think I should read out all of them except to say that he says that in living memory no such flood has occurred. It was a very unfortunate and very great disaster as a result of which nearly 100 to 200 lives were lost. We do not know the exact figures. In Macherla there was a breach of the small irrigation tank because of very heavy concentrated rainfall and it was not possible to contain the water. This breach occurred in the early hours of the morning with the result that there was great suffering and loss of life. Similarly, the Nagarjunasagar bridge or its eight spans have collapsed with the result that communication from that region has been cutoff. The hon. Minister of Food and Agriculture and myself are going tomorrow morning to visit those areas.

What I want to submit is this. With all the forecasting, with all the

scientific knowledge, we cannot say where exactly the rainfall is going to be concentrated; that is the defect, the difficulty, in rain forecasting, as for example the intensities that we noticed peculiarly this year.

The second point that has got to be considered is why these floods are not reduced. It is absolutely necessary that the suffering and damage caused by these floods must be minimised. That is accepted by all of us. We shall do our best. In pursuance of this, the Government of India has started a national policy of flood control only ten years back, in 1954. Before that, this subject has been dealt with only by the States. It was only in 1954 that the Government of India thought and decided that we should have a co-ordinated effort for the control of floods and damages resulting therefrom.

In regard to this one of the most reliable and one of the best ways of controlling floods, if we can afford the money and if there be favourable topographical features is the construction of dams. Shri Bagri was saying that dams were of no use. It is not so. On the other hand, if we can have detention reservoirs, if we can construct them, they will give complete protection against floods. For example, the Cauveri river was causing a lot of damage in Tanjore and Trichy districts before but after the construction of Krishnarajasagar and Mettur dam, the river is completely under control and, therefore, there is no fear of the floods for despair there. Similarly, by the construction of the Bhakra Dam the floods in Sutlej have been completely eliminated. In fact, the Punjab Government has very rightly started the reclamation of the Sutlej basin. They are trying to reclaim land because it is no longer necessary for there will not be so much flow of water and there is no necessity for such wide waterways. Similarly, in the Damodar valley after the construction of dams at Panchet and Maithon flood damage has become very much less.

[Dr. K. L. Rao]

In fact, one of the complaints is there is not sufficient water for flushing the lower Damodar near Hubli. Similarly, the Hirakud dam on the Mahanadi and many other dams we have constructed could afford a large amount of protection from floods. Those are the good works that we have done during the last ten years.

Then again, we have constructed nearly 4,000 miles of embankment which have protected large areas and saved from inundation as much as 14,000 sq. miles of our country.

Similarly, we are protecting against erosion nearly 65 towns, most of them important towns. The Dibrugarh town in Assam would have gone into the Brahmaputra long ago but for the fact that timely action was taken and about Rs. 2½ crores were spent for preventing erosion. Therefore, there is no use of saying that no work has been done.

Similarly, with regard to the raising of villages. Shri Sinhasan Singh has very correctly stated that what we are doing requires modification, requires improvement. I agree with him entirely. We have attended to the work of raising of the villages and raising of houses. We have raised nearly 4,400, villages and that has saved quite a lot of life and property. The raising of the villages is not something new. It is very interesting to note what Lord Budha had 2,500 years ago said in Dharmapada. He said: "by effort earnestness, discipline and self-control let a wise man make for himself an island which no flood can overwhelm". I am intrigued by this great saying of Lord Buddha. So, these floods were existing not only for the last 10 or 15 years but for the last 2,500 years. He mentioned protection by island. He said that there should be an island which no flood can overwhelm. We are doing exactly the same thing. We are raising the villages to a higher ground.

Shri D. C. Sharma (Gurganoah):  
Sir, may I point out that you are

bringing down a spiritual thing to a material field?

Dr. K. L. Rao: No, Sir. I am not yielding. As hon. Members have very correctly stated, the villages must be raised and that is precisely what we are doing. I have requested the UP Chief Engineer and UP authorities to do this. It will be a great improvement; there is no doubt about it. We have done wonderfully well in this respect.

Then, in regard to Kosi embankment Shri Yogendra Jha said that because of the construction of the Kosi embankment, the river has been put back, it is attacking the Western embankment to prevent which we have to spend some crores of rupees. They are real facts. But the only thing is that we have not put the river on that side; the river has gone that side. It is quite correct that it is attacking the western embankment. In fact, that is the main trouble with Kosi. It moves towards the west. During the last 75 years it has moved 75 miles towards the west. If only the western embankment had not been built, the most fertile area between Darbhanga and the present embankment would have been subjected to complete devastation and the whole area would have been a vast sea of sand and destruction because the Kosi would have gone there. Therefore, the river is pressing on the western embankment. It is quite correct. The river is going towards that side because the land is sloping towards that side. The very object of the Kosi control work is to prevent the river from going that side and we have delayed it quite successfully for the last ten years. Though the river would be fighting, we have to fight it back. It is only by a vigilant fight that the rivers can be held back in their proper places.

What I want to submit is, even though these various works have been done, Government want to do much more in respect of flood control. But for that we must have data. If we have to take some concerted measures, we must first collect the data. When we began this work there were no data for our rivers. Even now it is insufficient. But we have some data by which we are now emboldened to plan out so many schemes. I shall give one instance: we have made out an aerial photograph of 43,000 square miles. It is a large area, it is nearly as much as the whole country of West Germany. While dealing with our country we have to do things in a very big way. So many photographs have been made and they are all ready. They are of immense assistance to us to locate the places, the focal point at which we will get the silt due to soil erosion. The photographs are of great importance in drawing flood control works on our river systems.

From 1954 to 1964 we have done a tremendous amount of work. And the amount of money we have spent so far is about Rs. 120 crores. We must remember, it has been roughly estimated that for effecting a major dent, if we want to make a dent on these flood damages, if we want to achieve a substantial reduction of the damages, we should spend anything like a thousand crores. So, we have made this start. We must realise the limited nature of our finances. If we had more finances we could have done more work.

Take for instance—I want to give just an illustration—the United States of America. Why I am taking that country is because the rivers in the United States have got the same amount of water as in the Indian rivers—1340 million acre feet. Ours is the same, the river systems are similar. On the Mississippi which corresponds to our Ganga, on that river alone they had spent by 1954 as much as Rs. 2,000 crores by way of flood control. And a

very interesting fact is that in 1955 they had another flood and that caused a damage of Rs. 300 crores, and 279 lives were lost.

What I want to submit is that it is nothing peculiar to India; it is there all over the world, whenever there is plentiful water with a large number of rivers. The occurrence of floods every year is nothing unusual. They are not going to disappear. All that we should try to do is to reduce the flood damages, and with the finances that we have got we should try to do our best.

It is here that the co-operation of hon. Members is essential. We should try to frame out our schemes and select those projects which will yield the maximum benefits. The amount of money that is being thought of being provided in the Fourth Plan is something like Rs. 150 crores. How to make use of that money in order to achieve the maximum benefits by way of prevention of flood damages, is what we have to think of.

There is one aspect I should submit at this stage to which hon. Members may probably pay some attention, and it is this. This problem of flood control is getting more and more attention in the press and generally in our debates, because we are overlooking one fact. And that is that people, due to pressure of population or other reasons, are going and living in flood plains, in areas where people should not live. For example, in Delhi there is level called 672 feet which we will be hearing every now and then, at the Jumna bridge. 672 feet corresponds to a discharge in the river, which is only one-third of the maximum. And that discharge comes every year for a number of days. And still there are 39 villages which are below that level.

**Shri Iqbal Singh (Ferozepur):** Has the Government provided them some accommodation?

**Dr. K. L. Rao:** I have drawn the attention of the Delhi Administration last year and advised them that these villages must be evacuated.

**Shri P. Venkatasubbaiah (Adoni):** When did they come up?

**Dr. K. L. Rao:** They just come up whenever there is no water in the river; they just put up the villages. What is the meaning of our saying that we must have flood control? How can we have flood control for these villages? I am not talking of villages located below the maximum discharge. If they are below the maximum discharge, one can understand it; it comes once in a way, once in four or five years and one takes a risk. But their villages are below the level of 672 feet, a level to which every year the water must come—not only will come but must come. If you don't have waters and the floods in the rivers, we will be simply lost, we will be subject to drought conditions. We don't want that year in which there will be no water in our rivers.

One instance I have given. Similar instances exist all over the country. There are areas where the normal flow of the river is there, and people go and put up villages and then say "protect us from this flood". And that is one of the subjects on which hon. Members should ponder.

**श्री बागड़ी (हिसार) :** इसका कारण क्या है ? लोग वहां जा कर बंते क्यों हैं ?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Order, order.

**Dr. K. L. Rao:** I am very happy that we hold our annual discussion on this flood problem because it gives us an opportunity to analyse the year's experiences. For example, this year's experiences have been entirely different from what they had been before. And thereby it is indeed very valuable, the flood discussion which took place yesterday. We should have

every year such a discussion, and it is of great assistance to me in order to clarify the ideas on the subject.

Then the other subject on which many Members expressed certain points was with regard to incompleteness of the data on flood damages that I had submitted in the statement. I want to submit that we are still in the flood season, the waters are still there, and we do not know to what extent there have been damages and to what extent buildings have fallen and are unsafe and so on. We cannot expect estimate of damages so soon. The officers in various States are engaged in running about in connection with relief measures and various works by which they want to drain out the water. And therefore I do not expect any correct or even any kind of statement from the States. It takes some time. Therefore, whatever figures I have submitted are what I have obtained from the States. If some figures are not here or there it is not a mistake of the States at all in the flood season it is not possible to obtain quick and correct estimates of damages.

There is another point about water-logging. One of the hon. Members from Punjab said . . .

**श्री बागड़ी :** आपने दयान से तो यह पता चलता है कि जिनहोंने आंकड़े नहीं दिए वे काम कर रहे हैं और जिनहोंने आंकड़े दे दिए हैं वे काम नहीं कर रहे हैं ।

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Order, order.

**Dr. K. L. Rao:** One of the hon. Members from Punjab said that the water-logging is 40 lakhs of acres; very extensive.

**Shri Iqbal Singh:** Yes, I said,

**Dr. K. L. Rao:** Yes, it is necessary that we have some very clear ideas about water logging. What exactly do we mean by water-logging? It depends upon the definition of water-logging.

In Punjab it is defined as the area in which the water is between zero and five feet below the ground level in the month of October. Water-logging, we feel, is that area where this water level is between zero and five feet in the month of June.

**Shri Iqbal Singh:** 40 lakhs of acres have gone out of production in Punjab, and there is no dispute about this.

**Dr. K. L. Rao:** 40 lakhs acres is correct. From the statement, water-logging is between zero and five feet in the month of October. But that is not the criterion which is generally acceptable. The criterion that is more acceptable is the one in the month of June, before the floods. In that case that land is unfit for any kind of agricultural production either in the first season or in the second season, whereas in October quite a large area will have water table high. But even in spite of this, in Punjab, the authorities told me that due to the drains that have been constructed already, this year the water-logged has come down to 26 lakh acres.

And the hon. Member from Kotah has very correctly stated . . .

**Shri Sheo Narain (Bansi):** What is the remedy for it? How to solve it?

**Dr. K. L. Rao:** . . . that there has been more water-logging in the Chambal project.

That is quite correct.

**Shri Brij Raj Singh-Kotah (Jhalawar):** I am from Jhalawar.

**Dr. K. L. Rao:** But he is the Maharajkumar of Kotah. He said very correctly that there has been water-logging in some of the areas of the new Chambal irrigation project. There is often confusion about water-logging I have seen even some hon. Members saying when some low places are filled up with water that it is water-logging.

It is not so. Water-logged area means that area which is unfit for cultivation in any season. Judged by that, there are very few places in the country where water-logging is there. However, we do not want to leave even one acre of land not sown and I do not say that the problem is not there. The problem is there and we should tackle this problem. The way to tackle this problem is by investigating by drainage, by pumping out the water from underground, by extensive rural electrification and by encouraging pumping, which Shri Iqbal Singh has suggested, and by canal lining. All these works are necessary. I do not say that water-logging is not there in Punjab but the area that has been mentioned is not such an alarming figure as has been stated.

Another point which a large number of hon. Members have made is about the appointment of a high-power commission in order to go over this flood problem. I have been taken up with this idea. There is a considerable force and value in that suggestion. But the only thing is that this being a technical subject, there was a committee, what is called a high level committee of engineers, which went into the question of drawing up a sort of a plan of action for tackling this flood problem in the various States. That was done way back in 1956 or 1958. That plan is there and the various States are following up those plans and modifying those plans, for it must be remembered that flood control works are not like designing the projects of irrigation or power. They change as the circumstances change. There is a large amount of uncertainty about the river and its behaviour. Therefore these flood projects get changed from time to time.

After that, at the beginning of this year, in the month of February, a Ministers Committee had been appointed by the Ministry of Irrigation and Power to go into this question very thoroughly. That Committee consists of Ministers in charge of

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flood control in the various States and representatives of the various Ministries, Finance and so on. The committee has been asked to look after these items. Its terms of reference are:—

"To review and assess the action taken so far by the Central and State Governments in respect of the national flood policy outlined in 1954 with a view to indicate to what extent the various flood control measures have been effective and what further remains to be done in different States in the 4th, 5th and subsequent plans;

To suggest ways and means for financing flood control schemes;

To examine the existing pattern of and suggest modifications and improvements to flood control organisation in the States and at the Centre and inter-State levels like the River Commission;

To examine and recommend policy in respect of flood warning and forecasting, flood plain zoning and flood insurance."

Its report is expected to come by the end of this year.

Therefore I was just thinking that probably it is better that we wait till this report is received and then I shall have the privilege of inviting the hon. Members. We shall discuss once again what should be the terms of reference and how we should constitute a committee which will be a great service in respect of this problem. As I submitted, hon. Members' suggestions were quite good in that respect but what I have been thinking about is the exact way in which we should go about, specially in view of the fact that this Ministers' Committee's report is going to come out. Probably it is better that we wait for two or three months

by which time the report will be received.

I shall now come to some of the specific problems which have been raised by hon. Members. The hon. Member, Shri Kotoki, has said very correctly that the problem of Brahmaputra erosion is one that is worrying them and that the Centre must take over the flood control works on the Brahmaputra. It is true that in the case of the Brahmaputra the most serious problem is really erosion. In the case of a mighty river like that it is not so much inundation. Inundation can be prevented by the formation of banks on both sides which has been done and can be done. But the main problem is erosion. The river has got a width of ten miles; still, the river for unknown reasons just comes and attacks at a very good place, fertile places and just destroys them. To tackle this problem is very difficult because it is very costly, according to the present known methods.

This year I inspected the Brahmaputra Valley and there I found that the Majuli Island, which is excellent agriculturally and is very rich, is being subjected to erosion; in fact, it is losing all its importance. Therefore the prevention of erosion of the Brahmaputra is one of the subjects which has been engaging very close attention of mine. Of course, this problem has been under consideration all over the world. A huge number of enquiries are working on this problem of erosion by the Mississippi in U.S.A. I have just been trying to find out what steps we should take in order to come to grips effectively with this problem of overcoming this erosion in the Brahmaputra with, of course, the least amount of money possible.

The other question was by Shri Sharma with regard to the formation of the banks on the Gandak River

between Chitorighat and Pimprighat. He said that the gap is there. There is a bank on the other side with no embankment on one side and there is a tendency for the floods to come more and more on that side. That is quite correct. We are taking steps for it. The Bihar Government has already suggested an embankment and that has been approved also. It will be taken up in the Fourth Plan. Because of lack of funds it has not been included earlier.

The hon. Member from UP, I think, Shri Prakash Vir Shastri, mentioned about the erosion in Bijnor and the damages that are occurring in the Bijnor District. There are two rivers, the Ganga and the Ramganga, which do a lot of damage to that area. Fortunately, we are already engaged with the construction of dam on the Ramganga and once that is constructed there will be no more water from the Ramganga; it will be completely controlled, and the district will get considerable relief from this erosion.

Then, in eastern UP, Azamgarh and Basti and other districts are subject to a lot of suffering on account of these floods. This year it has not been so bad probably because of the construction of the Nepal bund and because the Rapti did not join the other rivers and give us trouble this year, but most often it does and we are very much concerned with how to reduce these flood damages in eastern UP. That is one of the very serious problems. This Rapti River rises in the territory of Nepal and any control measures that we have got to take have got to be in that region. That is our chief difficulty. If it was Indian territory, we could have constructed a dam and the water would have been brought completely under control.

**Shri Sheo Narain:** Will you kindly do one thing? If tanks are dug in all the villages, we can control it.

**Dr. K. L. Rao:** I will be very thankful if the hon. Member sends me a note on that. Then I shall look into that with great care and examine the problem.

Then, I think hon. Member, Shri Musafir, said that in Amritsar there has been a lot of damage. But I understand from the Punjab authorities that there are only two Tehsils, namely, the Patti and Khilehian Tehsils, which are subject to inundation and now they are completely free of water because all this water has disappeared due to the construction of the drains.

15.00 hrs.

Then, some hon. Members have mentioned about the Ghaghar river in Rajasthan. It is entirely true that the Ghaghar river is giving a lot of trouble and the earlier we control it—the flood control schemes are there—the better it is for the country. Though the necessary technical clearance has been given, we are awaiting the financial allocation before undertaking works on that river.

Finally, I come to the area which has been the most troublesome area this year and that is the area of Rajasthan, Delhi, Punjab and U.P. It is here that we have got a considerable amount of trouble particularly on the Ujjani side and the contiguous Bindwasa-Najafgarh area. It is these two areas that have given a great amount of anxiety and has caused the largest amount of concentrated damage of all the various flood damages that have occurred this year. It is due to the fact that the rainfall in Delhi and these areas has been the largest that has ever been recorded. Subject to the statistical analysis, it is found that this type of floods that have occurred here are such that occur with frequency of once in 500 years, that is, the floods of this type one could expect once in 500 years. Therefore, there is no wonder that when such a heavy type of flood comes in which insuffi-

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cient drainage outlet a lot of trouble has arisen.

Now, this drain of Ujjani-Govardhan passes through three States, the Punjab, Rajasthan and U.P. Another interesting point here is that the entire damage caused to extensions is due to the water of a very insignificant quantity, only 500 cusecs. 500 cusecs is a very small quantity. Take for example, Bhakra canal which carries as much as 12,000 cusecs of water. The work on the drain was not done fully. There was no drain before. Now we hope to have one. The Punjab has constructed the portion of drain in their territory; the drains in other two States have not been provided. Therefore, there is no outlet. So, this water though small in quantity, has filled up all these places and caused the damage. The damage has been the maximum in Rajasthan. I am very sorry that a very fertile land in the Pahari Kaman area is under water; The crops there are under water. We are trying our best to get out of this difficult situation. Then, the adjacent one is the Bindwasa-Najafgarh area. Here, Dhasa bund has now become world famous. By the very name of it, the States are very excited about it, I want to submit here that we must have clear facts on this point, Dhasa bund and so on. This year we have got a very large volume of water. Before I come to the question of Dhasa bund. I want to give a complete picture. This year, we have got a very large volume of water from an area where people were fighting for water. Before, the control of Sahbi Nadi was objected by Punjab saying, "We want water for irrigation". But this year, they are refusing a large amount of water saying, "You shut up that water" because water is causing suffering which nobody wants. Sahbi Nadi is one of those rivers which is completely neglected. We never knew about its importance. In fact, I was given to understand that it would bring in

only 400 cusecs. It has not gone to something like 8000 cusecs. That being the case, we have got to realise the fact that here is situation where a large amount of water has come in. Secondly, it is very important to remember that in the Punjab territory, the link drains have been cut right from Bindwasa right upto Delhi border with the result that the water is flowing down. Now, for example, Sahbi Nadi is flowing out with little water. We are letting out something like more than 1000 cusecs from Dhasa bund. But still the upstream is going down by an inch every day. That is because a large amount of water from Punjab area is being drained out on account of the existence of drains. Therefore, it is very necessary for us to remember this fact that the natural drainage has been interfered to a certain extent. I do not say, it is wrong or anything of that kind. So, when we are discussing about this Dhasa bund, there is no necessity to get excited about it. This Dhasa bund is not a big dam like Bhakra. A very small quantity of water is stored. Water is four or five times more in the down-stream than in the upstream. All that the Dhasa bund is doing is just trying to regulate the outflow of water. Otherwise, all the water would have come in a rush to Delhi. The only outlet is Najafgarh drain. For some reason or other, while everybody realises the importance of that drain, the work on that has been rather not so satisfactory as it should have been. For years, it was not done. It is only last year that some considerable amount of work was done with the result that this drain is carrying about 2000 cusecs of water now whereas it carried 500 cusecs of water last year. If it were an ordinary year, that would have been quite sufficient. Unfortunately, this year there has been a very heavy rainfall, a heavy water collection. So the water-way in Najafgarh drain is not sufficient. We are trying to do our best with the assistance of Punjab to get the equipment

from there and try to make it carry more water. If we succeed in doing this quickly we can achieve good results. There is not much of engineering work in that. If we only get draglines and so on, if we can push out more earth out of this drain, then it will be possible for us to drain out water completely from Punjab and substantially from areas in the Delhi territory, at least by the 15th November when the rabi crop can be sown. But it depends upon the progress that we can make with reference to the procurement of machinery. The Punjab Chief Minister has very kindly consented to give the equipment. We are expecting the equipment. I am not satisfied with the rate at which we are getting this equipment. That is going on slowly. If we can get another 4 or 5 draglines on the spot then the whole work can be completed in a month's time. In the meanwhile, of course, the water is going but then the water will go much faster.

श्री बागड़ी : ये मशीनें कहाँ से आती हैं ?

Dr. K. L. Rao: These machines are coming from Punjab. They have got 2½ cubic yard draglines. They are big ones. We have asked the Punjab Chief Minister to give us on loan. They are coming from the various neighbouring areas of the Punjab territory.

Then, Sir, I come to drain No. 8. It has given a lot of trouble this year. Here again, it is partly because of incomplete work. That drain was designed to carry 6000 cusecs of water but unfortunately it was done only for 4000 cusecs. The further work is going to be done this year. It was not completed last year. Therefore, that was not able to carry the water and that resulted in a number of breaches, inconvenience, suffering and so on.

Apart from that, some Members have said that the alignment has to be examined. I quite agree that we have got to see how far any changes in the

alignment are necessary, whether any improvements can be done, and so on. That, of course, we will examine. I have tried to cover some of the points made by some hon. Members; I once again thank the hon. Members for their very kind participation in the debate. While we abhor the suffering of our fellow countrymen we are limited in our work by funds. We have got to bear in mind that the flood control is one of those fields where hundred per cent of elimination is not possible. We are trying to do our best with the limited finances that are available. As regards flood control measures, I must repeat that we are very active and we are trying to stretch our activities to as great an extent as possible, subject to the limitations of finance, which are there in all developing countries, because there are other sectors where the need is more pressing. Nevertheless, we are doing fairly well on the subject.

I am most thankful to the hon. Members for the very excellent co-operation they have been giving and the excellent suggestions that they have made. I would request hon. Members to send me their suggestions from time to time, and I shall have them examined. After all, in flood control local information and acquaintance with local conditions is more important. In drawing up drainage schemes, local knowledge is more important than knowledge from outside. From that point of view, I would say that I shall be very thankful to the hon. Members for giving me advice and giving me information on the flood control measures, what they think must be taken up first and so on. On the whole, I should say that we are doing fairly well in the field of flood control.

Some Hon. Members rose—

श्री बागड़ी : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: We have had a full discussion already. There can be no more questions now. We have got also other business.

**श्री बगड़ी :** मैंने मोशन रक्खा है मुझे केवल एक सवाल मन्त्री महोदय से पूछ लेने दिया जाय ।

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Shri Bagri has no right of reply. शाली सवाल पूछ लें ।

**श्री बगड़ी :** मैं मन्त्री महोदय ने जो बयान दिया उसके अन्दर यह दो बातें नहीं बताई और मैं चाहूंगा कि वे कृपया इन दो बातों पर भी रोशनी डाल दें । एक बात तो यह है कि जब बाढ़ आती है तब अक्सर देखा गया है कि नौकाओं और पानी निकालने की मशीनों की कमी हो जाती है । अब बाढ़ इस देश में तकरीबन हर साल ही आया करती है इसलिए क्या मन्त्री महोदय इसकी व्यवस्था करवायेंगे कि यह नौकाएं और पानी निकालने आदि की मशीनों का पहले से ही समुचित प्रबन्ध देश के विभिन्न भागों में हो ? दूसरी बात यह है कि मन्त्री जी ने अपने बयान में जवाब में यह नहीं बतलाया कि बाढ़ पीड़ित लोगों को हमने आरजी तौर पर मदद देने का सुझाव दिया है, बीज, तकाबी और खाद आदि देने की बात कही है उस पर उन्होंने कोई रोशनी नहीं डाली है कि किस प्रकार से उन्हें यह सब मदद दी जायेगी ?

**Dr. M. S. Aney (Nagpur):** I also would like to put one question, because the point that I had raised has not been touched by the hon. Minister.

**Shri Lahri Singh (Rohtak):** I also would like to put a very important question . . .

**Dr. K. L. Rao:** I have not answered the point mentioned by the hon. Member because that pertains to the Home Ministry. The question of relief measures pertains to that Ministry. Nevertheless, these are very important measures, such as the provision of boats and the consideration of what assistance we should give to the suf-

ferers and so on. I think that when we constitute this committee of the Members of Parliament, that would be a very fit subject to take up at their meeting so that we could discuss the various aspects and arrive at some policy decisions.

**Shri P. Venkatasubbaiah:** Yesterday, there were floods and cyclone and rain in Andhra Pradesh . . . .

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** The hon. Minister has mentioned about it.

**Shri P. Venkatasubbaiah:** I want to put a question on that.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** I am sorry. We have got other business now.

**Shri P. Venkatasubbaiah:** I wanted a little more clarification from the hon. Minister.

**श्री रामेश्वरानन्द (करनाल) :** उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं मन्त्री जी से केवल एक बात पूछना चाहता हूँ . . .

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Order, order. Now, Shri Sanjivayya.

15.16 hrs.

### INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES (AMENDMENT) BILL

**The Minister of Labour and Employment (Shri D. Sanjivayya):** I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

As the House is aware, in the matter of labour legislation, the Labour Ministry has been following a policy of placing all important proposals before tripartite consultative bodies like the Indian Labour Conference, the Standing Labour Committee, etc. The im-